

help create 500,000 new jobs by year's end.

Mr. Speaker, this economic stimulus package is a good first start, but this Congress will take additional action to help American workers and help our economy recover. We will also develop a plan for additional assistance, which could include extension of unemployment benefits, food stamps, State and local assistance, and Medicaid.

RENEWABLE ENERGY TAX PACKAGE

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, ExxonMobil recently announced that they have earned over \$40 billion in 2007, the highest profits ever for a U.S. company. Of course, we want our U.S. companies to succeed in the global marketplace, but hugely profitable oil companies certainly don't need taxpayer subsidies, especially as the price of oil continues to hover at \$100 a barrel.

I want to urge my colleagues, it was none other than President Bush who said that with oil at \$50 a barrel, he saw no need for the kind of subsidies put in the 2005 energy bill by the Republican Congress. My constituents are fed up that oil companies are reaping billions in profits while hardworking Americans are suffering from a slowing economy.

Now is the time to level the playing field by removing Big Oil tax breaks and advancing clean technologies that will create green collar jobs and help grow our economy, drive down high energy prices, reduce our dependence on dirty and dangerous fossil fuels, and curb global warming pollution.

If we are going to give American consumers more efficient and cheaper energy options, we need to expand the incentives to invest in renewable and alternative energy sources.

The House will soon take up legislation to repeal these giveaways and to put our tax dollars to work to create a new policy for the 21st century. This legislation will significantly move us toward the goal of energy independence.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

CONGRESS WORKS FAST TO ADDRESS ECONOMIC DOWNTURN, BUT MORE WORK NEEDS TO BE DONE

(Mr. ARCURI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ARCURI. Mr. Speaker, the economic stimulus package that President Bush will sign into law today is a bipartisan victory for the American people. This broad-based stimulus package will provide tax relief of up to \$600 per

individual and \$1,200 per married couple, plus an additional \$300 per child. Recovery rebate checks could be sent out to 130 million Americans as early as May.

The stimulus package includes unprecedented tax relief for working families. The measure provides \$32 billion in tax relief for 35 million families who work but make too little to pay income taxes, families who otherwise would not have been included in the recovery package. This is a critically important provision in the stimulus package because economists say that the tax rebates that include low- and moderate-income families are 24 percent more effective as stimulus than rebates that leave these families out.

Mr. Speaker, it is our hope that this stimulus package will help jump-start our economy so more Americans can live the American Dream.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN TOM LANTOS

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, this Nation lost a great American this week. United States Congressman Tom Lantos passed at the age of 80. Last night on this floor, there was an hour of bipartisan agreement of what this man meant to this country and how much we've lost. There will be a memorial service tomorrow under the Capitol rotunda.

Tom Lantos was a Holocaust survivor who escaped from the Nazis twice and survived. He helped Jewish people survive the Holocaust through the good deeds of Raul Wallenberg, and he remembered that. He was a leader in this Congress and this Nation on human rights and civil rights, animal welfare rights, all living creatures.

Mr. Speaker, as a freshman Member of Congress, I was befriended by Tom Lantos, who told me to call him "Tom," which was difficult to do. He was such a giant of a man.

There are great opportunities to speak out on policy in this body and to serve in the greatest deliberative body in the world, but there are human stories, too.

In my opinion, there are two saints that are Members or have been Members during this term that I have served. One is Congressman Lantos, and one is Congressman LEWIS. They have overcome great adversity to go to great heights. I think this country owes a debt of gratitude to the Lantos family for his work. He will be sorely missed. I was fortunate to serve with him and to be able to call him a friend.

SHORT-TERM EXTENSION ON ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE LEGISLATION

(Mr. ROYCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, we are back on the floor today deliberating another short-term extension on electronic surveillance legislation, and I would understand a stopgap measure if we were at an impasse. But yesterday the other body passed a bipartisan permanent rewrite of this essential national security legislation. They did it with 68 votes. They did it overwhelmingly on what some here have called a contentious issue. Well, 21 Members of the majority here have written the Democratic leadership supporting the Senate's version. The President has said he will sign it.

Mr. Speaker, let's bring that bill to the floor and pass it today. If the current authority is allowed to lapse 3 days from now, most experts agree that the administration would have to go back to the original FISA statute for new warrants in cases where foreign-to-foreign communications are routed through the U.S. telecom infrastructure, causing us to miss important information on terrorists that are trying to attack Europe, trying to attack us here, trying to attack in the Middle East. That's a situation we cannot go back to.

ENDING SUBSIDIES FOR BIG OIL AND SUPPORTING RENEWABLE ENERGY

(Mr. WALZ of Minnesota asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, you've heard previous speakers this morning talk about the incredible profits of oil companies. The number is \$40 billion last year. That is the largest corporate profit in the history of this Nation. And meanwhile, as these profits are flowing and high energy prices continue to squeeze working-class Americans since President Bush took office, gas prices are up 109 percent, and home heating prices are up 222 percent. And over that same period of time, profits at the oil companies are up 313 percent.

Now, to add insult to injury, in addition to these profits, the oil companies are currently receiving tax subsidies from the taxpayers of America. House Democrats do not believe that's right.

In the coming weeks, we are going to consider legislation that will end those subsidies and transfer it to renewable energy sources. Renewable energy jobs and investment across America depend on Washington to act on this.

Mr. Speaker, by passing this energy bill, congressional Democrats will lower energy costs, improve national security by making us more energy independent, and end taxpayer finance subsidies to the oil companies.

RECOGNIZING THE COURAGE AND CHARACTER OF PEOPLE IN THE SOUTH AFTER NATURAL DISASTERS

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House